

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03847 031620Z

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TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON GREECE, TURKEY,
CYPRUS

REF: STATE 294514 (DTG 030221Z DEC 76)

1. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON CYPRUS IN NOVEMBER 23
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING RECEIVED WIDESPREAD
NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE IN GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS DECEMBER 3
(TURKISH-LANGUAGE PRESS WAS NOT PUBLISHED BECAUSE OF BAYRAM
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 03847 031620Z

HOLIDAY). NEWS TREATMENT INDICATED MR. CARTER'S STATEMENT

"CREATED SOME CONFUSION" ABOUT HIS CYPRUS POLICY. SEMI-OFFICIAL PHILELEFTHEROS APPEARED TO BE REASSURING THE PUBLIC WITH HEADLINE THAT "CARTER LINE DOES NOT CHANGE." THIS WAS REINFORCED BY NEWS STORY IN THE PAPER THAT A SPOKESMAN FOR MR. CARTER HAS STATED THAT AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S OFFICE STRESSING THAT HIS POSITIONS HAVE NOT CHANGED AND THAT ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY WILL HAVE TO BE CONNECTED WITH PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. PSEUDO-SOCIALIST TA NEA SEEMED RELIEVED THAT IT COULD FINALLY JUSTIFY CRITICISM OF MR. CARTER AND EMPHASIZED THAT "WE (CYPRIOTS) HAVE ERRONEOUSLY CELEBRATED."

2. THE PUBLICATION OF TEXT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT'S SFRC MEETING HAS PUT A SLIGHT HITCH INTO WHAT WE SEE AS A GOC CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE THE POLICY OF THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION BY CREATING EXPECTATION OF SHARP CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD PRO-GREEK CYPRIOT POSITION. THIS EFFORT BEGAN WITH ORGANIZED ACCLAMATION OF THE RESULT OF U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND HAS CONTINUED WITH STORIES AND COMMENTARY EMPHASIZING THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. AND WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS CAMPAIGN WAS HEAVY PRESS PLAY OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S WARM BUT LOW-KEY RESPONSE TO MAKARIOS' MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS. THE GOC CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LESS THAN SUBTLE, WITH ALL MEDIA EMPHASIZING THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S "PROMISES".

3. IN SHORT, WE THINK THE REPORT OF THE SFRC MEETING HAS HELPFULLY SPLASHED SOME COLD WATER ON THE GOC CAMPAIGN.
CRAWFORD

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